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# AFRICA BEYOND THE SAFARI



# South Africa's 2019 Travel Indaba

By Johanna Read, TravelEater.net

Interested in knowing more about travel in southern Africa? The travel trade, and even some consumers, will be interested in Travel Indaba 2019, the largest travel trade show on the African continent. The annual event takes place May 2 to 4, 2019, with dates recently adjusted to accommodate South Africa's election on May 8. Durban, a city of Indian Ocean beaches, will continue to host the event until at least 2020.

Travelling to South Africa for the trade show means lots of events and information aimed at travel experts, plus, with the election, the opportunity to witness democracy in action. Democracy, human rights and freedom are cornerstones of South Africa, and values which Nelson Mandela and others fought hard to bring to the country. It's even possible to tour South Africa to see sites related to these values and Mandela, South Africa's first democratically-elected president.

Together the sites are called Madiba's Journey, after Mandela's clan name. The route has 100 historical locations, museums and art installations which celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Mandela's birth in 1918. An app, at [www.SouthAfrica.net/Mandela](http://www.SouthAfrica.net/Mandela), guides you through each site.

A key Madiba's Journey site is just outside of Durban, not far from the Indaba conference centre. The Nelson Mandela Capture Site has a museum explaining how Mandela was arrested in 1962, what led up to his 27 years in prison and his achievements after he was released. There's an immense laser-cut statue of his face and a moving representation of Mandela's long walk to freedom. Other Madiba's Journey sites are Cape Town's Robben Island, the Apartheid Museum and Constitution Hill in Johannesburg, and the Route 67 art walk in South Africa's dolphin capital, Port Elizabeth.

Africa's Travel Indaba features speakers from government and the tourism industry, seminars and several networking events. Exhibitors include tourism boards, hotels, tour and safari companies, and transportation options from all over the African continent. The 2018 Travel Indaba had over 1700 buyers, 1100 exhibitors and 7000 delegates, marking the growth opportunity in travel to Africa.

In addition to the expo, visitors can enjoy Durban's other highlights including the city's Golden Mile promenade and long beaches with perfect surfing waves, botanical gardens, the Big Rush Big Swing adrenaline experience, excellent restaurants and bars, and even tastings at Distillery 031, a craft distillery in the hip Station Drive neighbourhood.

More info on the trade show is at [www.indaba-southafrica.co.za](http://www.indaba-southafrica.co.za), and on travel to South Africa at [www.SouthAfrica.net](http://www.SouthAfrica.net).